

## **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality**

### **Notice of Public Comment**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will release the 2008 Water Quality Assessment Guidance Manual on April 2, 2007 for public comment.

A copy of the 2008 Water Quality Assessment Guidance Manual (DEQ Assessment Guidance) is available to download from the DEQ Water Quality Assessment webpage at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/wqa/>. A hard copy can also be requested from Harry Augustine, DEQ Water Quality Assessment Coordinator, using his contact information below.

Section 62.1-44.19:5 C of the Code of Virginia requires DEQ to develop and publish the procedures used for defining and determining impaired waters and provide for public comment on these procedures. The guidance has not notably changed since the previous assessment in 2006. The DEQ Assessment Guidance contains the assessment procedures to be used for the development of Virginia's 2008 §305(b)/ §303(d) Integrated (i.e. combined Water Quality Assessment and Impaired Waters) Report. The 2008 Integrated Report is due to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by April 1, 2008.

The DEQ Assessment Guidance seeks to address all key elements of the EPA 2006 Assessment Guidance and Draft 2008 Assessment Guidance updates released on October 12, 2006. Final EPA guidance has been delayed pending the inclusion of additional measures for addressing waters impaired by mercury via air deposition. If EPA requires changes by Virginia as a result of revisions to its final assessment guidance, the DEQ Assessment Guidance will also be revised and noticed for additional public comment.

Written comments on the DEQ Assessment Guidance will be accepted through Friday, May 4, 2007, at 4:30pm. Comments can be submitted via e-mail (Microsoft Word attachment is preferred) or U.S. mail. Written comments should include the name, address, telephone number, and, if applicable, the e-mail address of each person and/or organization submitting comments. Comments and related correspondence should be addressed to Harry Augustine. Responses to comments received will be made collectively, via a response document. The response document will be posted on the assessment webpage, at the URL above, by June 1, 2007, and subsequently mailed to each person that submits comments.

Contact: Harry Augustine, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Telephone (804) 698-4037, FAX (804) 698-4116, or via e-mail at [hhaugustine@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:hhaugustine@deq.virginia.gov).